



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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22 October 1985

Mr. Arnaud de Borchgrave
Editor-in-Chief
THE WASHINGTON TIMES
3600 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. de Borchgrave:

THE WASHINGTON TIMES' article on 21 October 1985 entitled "CIA Spy Gave Clues of Intent to Agents" is flawed in a number of particulars. Mr. Gertz's source or sources just don't know what they are talking about, viz:

- Edward Howard did not meet with CIA officials in Austria.
- The Privacy Act limits what one can say about Howard and his problems, not whether or not someone should act on someone else's fantasies.
- The Agency's Deputy Director, John McMahon, did not become Executive Director until January 1982. He took over as Deputy Director some six months later in June 1982.
- Mr. McMahon had nothing to do with Howard. He was not involved in hiring him, he did not know him or of him while Howard was in the Agency, nor was he involved with any decision regarding his departure from CIA.
- Mr. McMahon did not veto any overseas counterspy program. In fact, he has been instrumental in strengthening the Agency's structure for dealing with foreign espionage.
- The new CIA Security Chief was selected by the DCI, as is customary, from a number of candidates. Mr. McMahon's role in the process has been totally misrepresented.

While Mr. Gertz and his sources are entitled to the opinions reflected in THE WASHINGTON TIMES' article, the presentation of these opinions as facts does a disservice to the truth, to the American public, to THE WASHINGTON TIMES and to the Agency.

Sincerely,


George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs